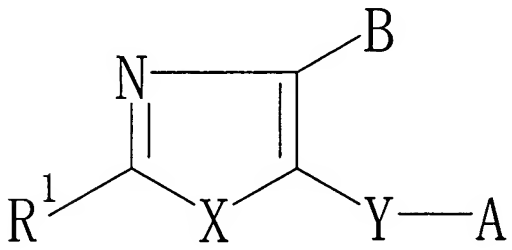
1. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for preventing or treating chronic pain, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, diabetic cardiomyopathy, peripherial nerve injury, spinal injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral ischemic disease, senile dementia of ~~Altzheimer~~ **Alzheimer** type, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, depression, inflammatory bowel disease, behavioral abnormalities accompanied by dementia, or anxiety in a mammal in need thereof, said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of ~~a neurotrophin production/secretion promoting agent which comprises~~ an azole derivative of the formula :



wherein R^1 represents a halogen atom, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted, a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, a thiol group which may optionally be substituted, or an amino group which may optionally be substituted; A represents an acyl group which may optionally be substituted, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted, a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, or a carboxyl group which may optionally be esterified or amidated; B represents an aromatic group which may optionally be substituted; X represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, or nitrogen atom which may optionally be substituted; and Y represents a divalent hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group, or a salt thereof.

2. (Previously Canceled)

3. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is a nitrogen-containing 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted.

4-5. (Previously Canceled)

6. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is an imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted.

7. (Previously Canceled)

8. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein A is an aryloxy group which may optionally be substituted.

9. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein A is a phenoxy group substituted with an alkyl group which may optionally be substituted.

10. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein B is a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted.

11. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein Y is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

12. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein X is -O-.

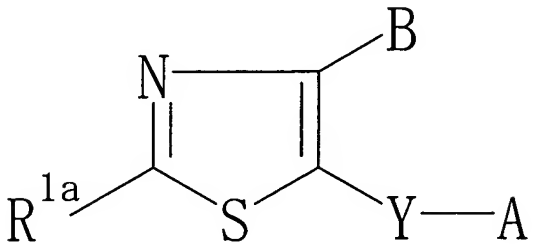
13. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein X is -S-.

14. (Previously Canceled)

15. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the azole derivative is 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolepropanol, 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolebutanol, 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(1-imidazolyl)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole, 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolepentanol, 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[4-(1-imidazolyl)butyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole, 3-[3-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolyl]propyl]-1-methyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione, 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole, 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole, 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(4-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole, or 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-[3-(2-methylphenoxy)propyl]oxazole.

16-17. (Previously Canceled)

18. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the azole derivative is of the formula :



wherein R^{1a} represents a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted; A represents an acyl group which may optionally be substituted, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted, a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, or a carboxyl group which may optionally be esterified or amidated; B represents an aromatic group which may optionally be substituted; and Y represents a divalent hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group, or a salt thereof.

19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 18, wherein R^{1a} is a nitrogen-containing 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted.

21. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 18, wherein R^{1a} is an imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted.

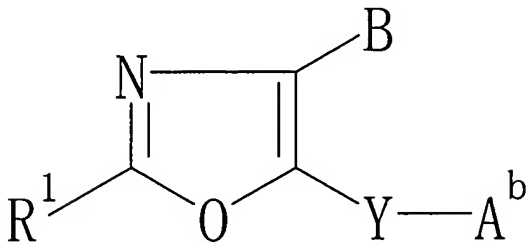
22. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 18, wherein A is an aryloxy group which may optionally be substituted.

23. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 18, wherein B is a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted.

24. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 18, wherein Y is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

25-28. (Previously Canceled)

29. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the azole derivative is of the formula :



wherein R^1 represents a halogen atom, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted, a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, a thiol group which may optionally be substituted, or an amino group which may optionally be substituted; A^b represents an aryloxy group which is substituted by an alkyl group and may further be substituted; B represents an aromatic group which may optionally be substituted; and Y represents a divalent hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group, or a salt thereof.

30. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein A^b is an aryloxy group which is substituted by an alkyl group.

31. (Previously Canceled)

32. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein R^1 is a nitrogen-containing 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted.

33. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein R^1 is an imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted.

34. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 33, wherein R^1 is an imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted by a $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl.

35. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein B is a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted.

36. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 35, wherein B is a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted by halogens.

37. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein Y is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

38. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 37, wherein Y is a divalent C_{1-4} aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

39-42. (Previously Canceled)

43. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the azole derivative is 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-[3-(2-methylphenoxy)propyl]oxazole or a salt thereof.

44. (Previously Canceled)

45. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the azole derivative is 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-[3-(3-methylphenoxy)propyl]oxazole or a salt thereof.

46. (Previously Canceled)

47. (Previously Amended) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the azole derivative is 5-[3-(4-Chloro-2-methylphenoxy)propyl]-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole or a salt thereof.

48-58. (Previously Canceled)